

### December 31, 2009

WASHINGTON, DC - Today, U.S. Rep. Michael Arcuri (NY-24) released the following statement regarding his accomplishments in 2009:

"2009 has been an historic year in Congress as I worked to pass legislation and develop policies to benefit Upstate New York. It is my accomplishments at home that I am most proud of.

In May, I celebrated with so many determined local residents, small business owners and elected officials who worked together with me to stop the NYRI power line project from moving forward. While we celebrated the decision by FERC that effectively killed the proposal, I have pledged to remain vigilant to ensure that NYRI is gone once and for all.

I remain focused on high speed rail as a way to drive the Upstate economy through the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I have worked on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in Congress to help secure millions of dollars in initial funding for track upgrades in Oneida County and remain optimistic at the President's commitment to invest billions of dollars in high speed rail in the future.

In working to keep our communities safe I fought to increase funding to put more police officers on the street and fund child advocacy centers across the 24<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. Our neighborhoods should be a place where our children can live without fear and I will continue to make that a priority.

This year, I was able to introduce a number of bills to help benefit local farmers by providing them with increased funding to support their farms or cut frivolous costs in the processing and transportation of milk for our dairy farmers. I also introduced legislation to provide a source of funding for local municipalities to study how they can streamline services and save taxpayer money.

At the end of July, I worked with a group of moderate Democrats to stop the healthcare bill from coming to a vote, which allowed me to come home in August and September and meet with thousands of Upstate New Yorkers both individually and in town hall settings. I was proud to vote for healthcare reform that aims to stabilize health care for those who have it and provides an opportunity for those who work hard, but can't afford it, the opportunity to buy health insurance. While I await the details of a final bill that incorporates ideas both from the House and the Senate, there is little doubt that this Congress has taken historic strides towards real and absolutely necessary healthcare reform.

In striving to be a moderate voice for the 24<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, I have only voted with the Administration 78% of the time, a figure that is below former Republican Congressman John McHugh's voting record of 79% with the Administration (According to CQ). In June, I voted against Democratic leadership on the Cap and Trade bill because our local businesses and farms would not have benefited from this legislation. While I am the first to say that this country needs to address global climate change, I met with many local business and agriculture leaders to discuss the impact of cap and trade and with their advice determined that a vote against this bill was the right decision.

I support President Obama's strategy in Afghanistan and know that the fight to destroy Al Qaeda makes America safer. While I do not support an indefinite timeline for our troops in Afghanistan, I am concerned about setting an arbitrary deadline for the start of withdrawal.

I am proud to have worked with companies like Remington Arms in Ilion, ECR and FX Matt Brewery in Utica to help them grow and develop their products to benefit of our region. We have seen expansion at several local hospitals that strengthen health care services and I have been proud to work with hospitals like St. Elizabeth's in Utica and Rome Memorial to aid in that development.

While 2009 was full of progress, there is little doubt that we still face real challenges moving forward. Looking ahead to 2010, my main focus will be to continue to repair our economy and help to foster an environment that promotes job creation. I have seen positive signs that the Bush Recession is coming to an end as new economic policies are driving the economy in the right direction.

I will continue to fight on behalf of my constituents above all else and look forward to continuing to represent the 24<sup>th</sup> District in Congress in 2010."

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